

# **Sangamon County Regional Plan**

## **Environment, Natural Resources and Open Space Study Group Report**

**November 2009**

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## Environment:

### Air Quality

#### Sangamon County - 2003

Air Quality Index:	Days	Air Quality Index	
Percentage of days with good air quality:	88	0 - 50	Good
Percentage of days with moderate air quality:	12	50 - 100	Moderate
Percentage of days with unhealthful air quality for sensitive populations:	0	100 - 200	Unhealthful
Percentage of days with unhealthful air quality:	0	200 - 300	Very Unhealthful
Maximum AQI level in 2003	93	300 - 500	Hazardous
Median AQI level in 2003	31		
90th Percentile AQI level in 2003	56	(source: scorecard.org)	

### Land

#### Topography

Prior to glaciation of by Illinois Episode, Sangamon County had a rolling topography that resembled the unglaciated portions of Illinois. Glaciation changed the topography by leveling the hills and filling the valleys. Today Sangamon County is essentially a nearly level plain dissected by numerous streams with many branching tributaries. The topography is rolling in areas adjacent to the streams. With the exception of a few small hills in Buffalo Hart Township, most areas that slope 5 percent or more are confined to the stream valleys and side slopes along streams and drainage ways.

The highest point in the county is more than 710 feet above sea level in the southwestern corner. The lowest point is less than 500 feet above mean sea level in the northwest corner of the county where the Sangamon River exits the county. Most of the county is between 520 and 600 feet above mean sea level with the western part of the county averaging slightly higher elevation.

#### Parent material

Glaciation by the Illinois Episode occurred approximately 125,000 to 300,000 years ago. Glaciation by the Wisconsin Episode occurred approximately 10,000 to 75,000 years ago, although this glacier did not enter Sangamon County, it still had major effects on this area through temperature changes, eolian deposits and melt water. (Killy, 1998)

The soils in Sangamon County formed in a variety of parent materials. The majority of the soils formed in loess. Other soils formed in sandy eolian deposits, glacial drift, alluvium, bedrock residuum, or a combination of these.

Eolian sediments are materials transported and deposited by the wind. Eolian sediments in the county, were deposited during the Wisconsin Episode and are either loess or windblown sand. The loess is about 15 feet thick in the northern part of the county and thins to less than 7 feet in the southern part.

Windblown sand consists primarily of very fine sand and fine sand. It generally is in scattered areas on the south side of the valley of the Sangamon River.

Glacial drift is glacially deposited sediment. There are two main types of glacial drift—till and outwash. Till is material that was deposited directly by glacial ice with little or no water action. The till in Sangamon County was deposited during the Illinois Episode.

During the Sangamon interglacial stage, which occurred between the Illinois and Wisconsin Episodes, the relatively flat, stable till surface was exposed to intense weathering. A soil formed on the till surface and was subsequently buried by depositions of loess. The soils that formed in the till are called paleosols, and they reflect the environmental conditions of their formation period.

Outwash includes all sediments deposited by running water from melting glaciers. Outwash is stratified, and varies in composition because of variations in the flow of water. The outwash in Sangamon County was deposited during the Wisconsin Episode.

Stream alluvium is soil material deposited by floodwater along streams. The source of the alluvium generally is material eroded from other parent materials farther upstream in the watershed.

The bedrock residuum in Sangamon County is material weathered from shale and sandstone. It is generally grayish and unstratified. The bedrock is Pennsylvanian in age. (USDA, 2004)

## Soils

Soil is one of the most important natural resource in Sangamon County. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has identified by name and number 700 soil series (kinds of soils) in Illinois, 44 of which are found in Sangamon County.

### Some of the major soils in the county are:

**Hartsburg Osco, and Sable** These dark colored soils, developed under prairie vegetation, and formed in loess. These nearly level to moderately sloping soils are poorly drained to well drained, and are moderately permeable.

#### **Ipava and Virden**

These are dark colored soils developed under prairie vegetation, and formed in loess. These nearly level soils are somewhat poorly drained or poorly drained, and the permeability is moderately slow.

#### **Fayette, Keomah, and Rozetta**

These soils were developed under forest vegetation and formed in loess. They tend to have a lower pH in the subsoil, less organic matter in the surface soil and are typically less productive than the soils developed under prairie vegetation. These nearly level to strongly sloping soils are well drained or somewhat poorly drained and the permeability ranges from moderate to slow.

#### **Tice and Sawmill**

These nearly level bottomland soils occur on floodplains of major streams and their tributaries. These soils are somewhat poorly drained or poorly drained, and the permeability is moderate. Flooding is a hazard on these soils.

### Less extensive soils in the county are:

#### **Assumption, Elco, and Hickory**

The Assumption and Elco soils formed in loess over a paleosol that formed in glacial till. These moderately sloping to strongly sloping soils are moderately well drained, and the permeability ranges from moderately slow to slow.



The Hickory soils formed entirely in glacial till. These strongly sloping to steep soils are well drained, and the permeability is moderate.

#### **Alvin, Camden, and Middletown**

The Alvin soils formed in wind or water deposited loamy and sandy material. These moderately sloping to strongly sloping soils are well drained, and the permeability is moderately rapid. The Camden soils formed in loess over outwash. These nearly level to moderately sloping soils are well drained, and the permeability is moderate or moderately rapid. The Middletown soils formed in loess over sandy eolian material. These gently sloping to moderately sloping soils are well drained, and the permeability is moderate over moderately rapid to rapid.

#### **Marseilles**

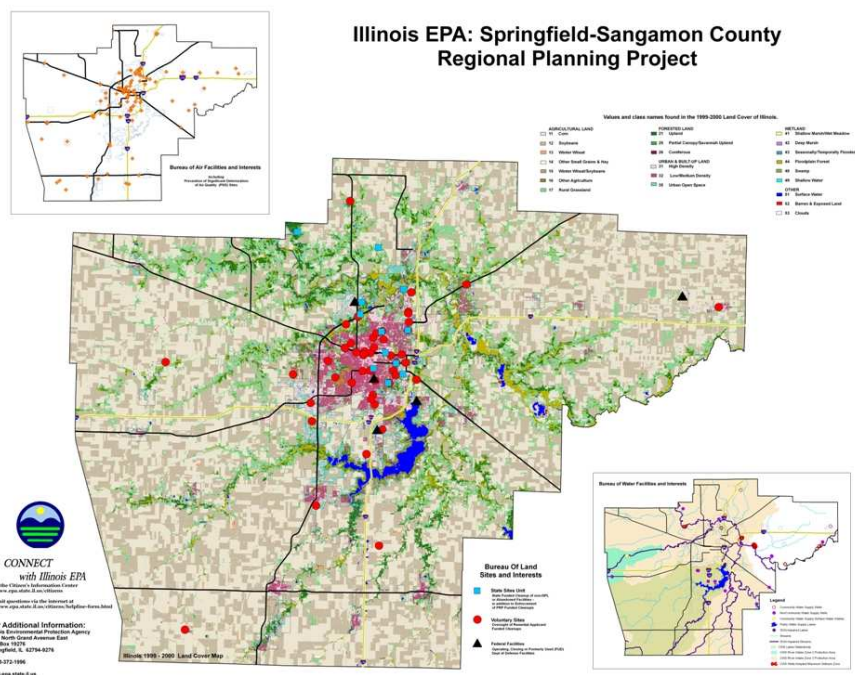
The Marseilles soils formed in a thin layer of loess over weathered shale. These very steep soils are well drained, and the permeability is very slow or slow.

All of the major soils of Sangamon County are highly productive. About 465,325 acres or nearly 83% of the county is considered prime farmland (USDA, 2004). Prime farmland as defined by USDA is land that is of major importance in meeting the nations short and long range needs for food and fiber.

There are 8 soil classes identified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Class I	170,663 acres	30%
Class II	242,572 acres	43%
Class III	116,899 acres	21%
Class IV	14,748 acres	3%
Class V	0 acres	0%
Class VI	5,181 acres	1%
Class VII	633 acres	.1%
Class VIII	0 acres	0%

## Land Use:



(high resolution image: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/SangamonE.jpg](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/SangamonE.jpg))

## Agricultural Land:

Crops produced on the soil and livestock that feed on some of these crops contribute to the wealth of the county. In 2007, Sangamon County tied for second in the State in corn yield, with 199-bushel average. It tied for sixth in the State in soybean production with 51 bushels per acre (USDA, 2007). The county had 993 farms, which average 470 acres in size.

The amount of land in farms around the county varies, as has the specific definition for farmland. Land in farms includes crop and livestock acreage, wasteland, woodland, pasture, land in summer fallow, idle cropland, and land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and other set aside or commodity acreage programs. The most recent definition from the USDA states, "a farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 (gross value) or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year" (USDA, 2007).

### Sangamon County Land in Farms

Year	Acres	
1910	520,999	Although minor additions, deletions, and modifications to the definitions of crops and acreage and methods of accounting have resulted in fluctuations in the total farmland acres for Sangamon County, the general trend has been diminishing of farm acreage over time
1930	504,384	
1959	480,539	* The 2007 area values differ from 2002 because of the improved accuracy of spatial data. The proportion of land area in farms may now exceed 100-percent because some operations have land in two or more counties, but all acres are tabulated in the principal county of operation.
1987	493,253	
1992	446,750	
1997	466,956	
2002	468,314	
2007	*518153	

(source: USDA NASS - IASS)



Springfield-Sangamon County  
Regional Planning Commission

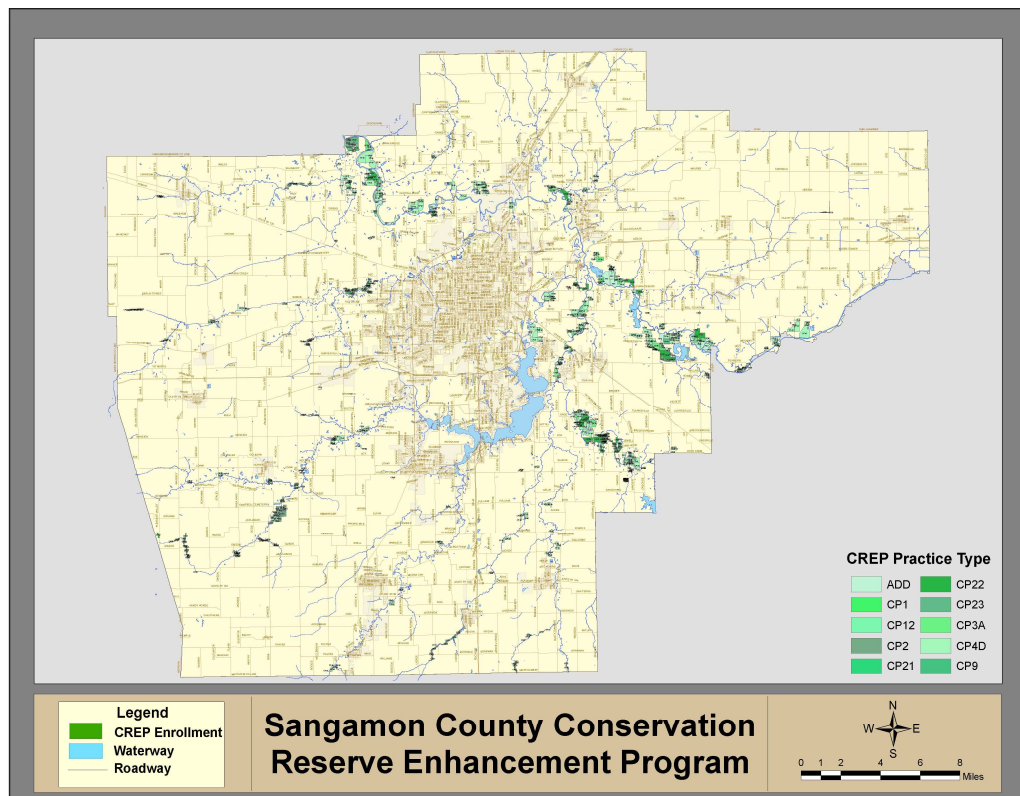
**Sangamon County Farm Number and Size**

Year	Ave. Acreage	Number of Farms
1992	427	1,046
1997	470	993
2002	483	970
2007	449	1,153

(source: NASS Ag. Census Datum, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007)

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program enrollees**

Sangamon County currently has over 9,600 acres of land under the CREP program. Approximately 5,000 acres are under permanent easements. The following map details the various CREP enrollments in the county, as well as their approved conservation practice under the program (CTRL+Click to download high resolution pdf).



(high resolution map: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/CREP.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/CREP.pdf) )

**Approved Conservation Practices**

ADD – Added/Modified acreage  
 CP2 - Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses  
 CP3A - Hardwood Tree Planting  
 CP4D - Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Noneasement  
 CP9 - Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife

CP12 - Wildlife Food Plot  
 CP22 - Riparian Buffer  
 CP21 - Filter Strip  
 CP23 - Wetland Restoration

**The Illinois Conservation and Climate Initiative (ICCI)**

ICCI is a joint project of the State of Illinois and the Delta Institute that allows farmers and landowners to earn greenhouse gas emissions credits. The credits can be sold on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Eligible practices include, continuous no-till and strip-till farming, certain grass and tree plantings, as well as third-party certified sustainable forest management plans.

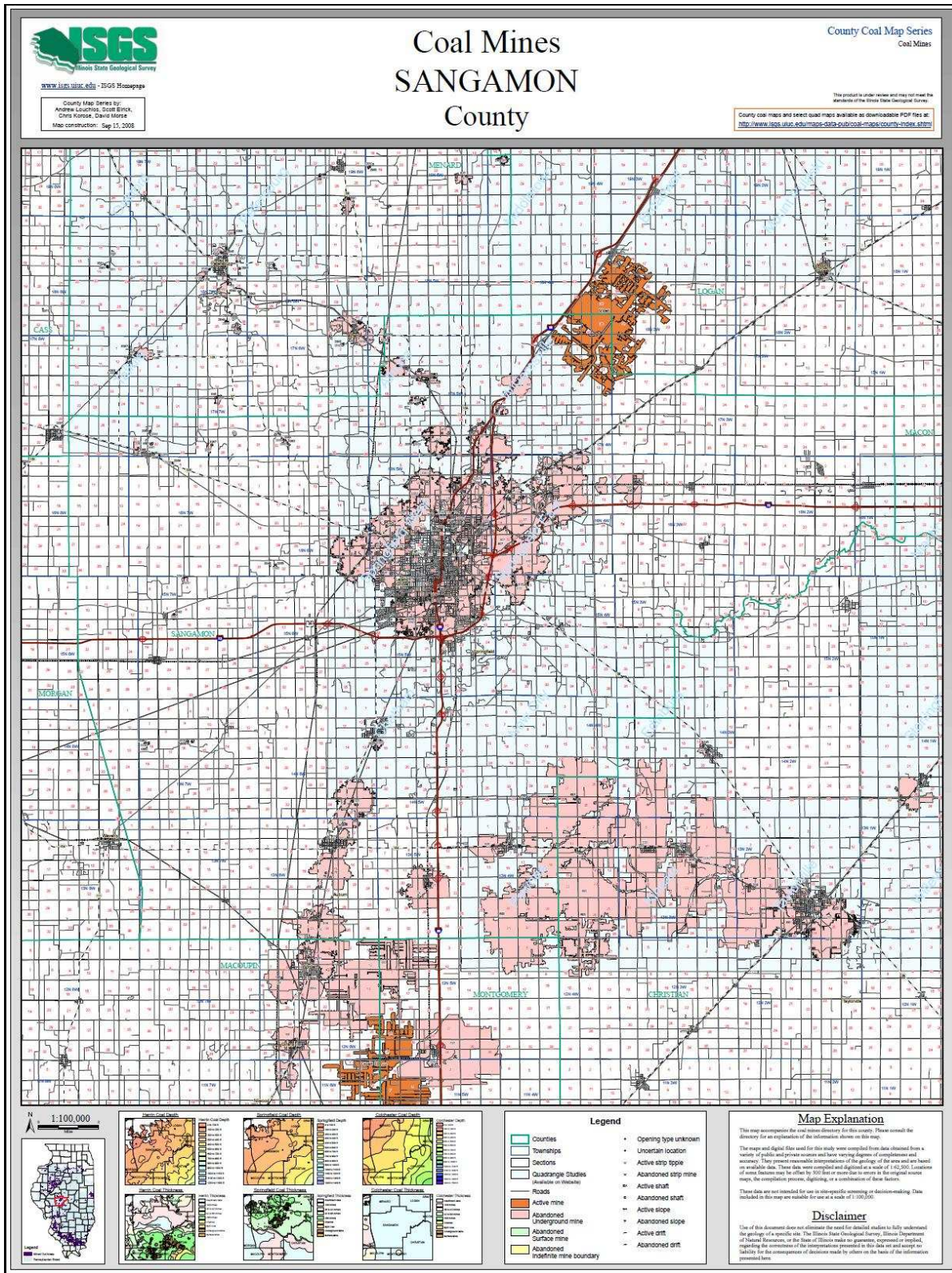
**Severable Resources:**

Sangamon County has one active underground coalmine, the Viper mine at Williamsville. It is an underground mine predominantly in Logan County, but a portion of which is in Sangamon County. The mine produced 2 million short tons of coal in 2000 (National Mining Association, 2007 Coal Producer Survey).

The Viper mine is mining the Illinois No. 5 Seam, also referred to as the Springfield Seam. International Coal Group estimates that Viper controls approximately 32.9 million tons of coal reserves, plus an additional 38.5 million tons of non-reserve coal deposits. Approximately 70.5% of the coal reserves are leased, while 29.5% is owned in fee. The leases are retained by annual minimum payments and by tonnage-based royalty payments. The leases can be renewed until all mineable and merchantable coal has been exhausted. Nearly two-thirds of the viper mine coal is provided to electrical utilities. (Reuters company profile) <http://www.reuters.com/finance/stocks/companyProfile?symbol=ICO.N&rpc=66>

In January of 2009, the Sangamon County Board approved a plan that will give ICG sales and property tax breaks for expanding mining operations. Viper mine owners International Coal Group of Illinois requested the extension of an enterprise zone for a \$20 million expansion of the mine. The expansion would extend a third shaft into northern Sangamon County near Williamsville and will likely result in additional sales tax revenue from the mined coal. As of 2006, ICG Viper mine operations employed 251 people. (Niziolkiewicz, 2008) (note: negotiations pending on annexation jf )





(High resolution map: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/mines\\_map\\_sangamon.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/mines_map_sangamon.pdf))

## **Waste Management**

In 2006, 452,000 tons of waste was generated in Sangamon County, with 163,000 tons (36%) of it recycled. The following facilities are active in Sangamon County. (IL EPA, 2007a)

### **Sangamon Valley Landfill**

The 198-acre Springfield municipal solid waste landfill contains 24 acres of disposal area. They accept Municipal, non-hazardous special waste and recyclables. In 2007, they accepted 469,558 gate cubic yards of waste, equivalent to 142,290 tons, averaging 547 tons per day. The landfill's capacity for 2008 is certified gate cu. yards. (Tons) 7,423,000 (2,249,000). (IL EPA, 2007b)

### **Dirksen Parkway Compost Facility**

2901 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield

Landscape waste accepted from and used on State Capitol Complex properties only. The site has a maximum volume of 8,000 cubic yards per year. (IL EPA, 2007b)

### **Evans Recycling 3**

2100 J. David Jones Pkwy-B, Springfield, Landscape waste only. (IL EPA, 2007b)

### **Waste Management/Springfield Transfer Station**

3000 E. Ash St., Springfield. Municipal, recyclables, solid waste, and brush. (IL EPA, 2007b)

## **Water**

The county has approx 1,100 lakes and ponds. Of these, 1000 are private ponds and 80 are organizational lakes. These private waters encompass about 1,116 acres. There are public bodies of water totaling more than 4,400 acres of water (IDNR 2000b). Each year approx 25,000 fishing trips are made to Lake Springfield. Lake Sangchris, partially located in Sangamon, each year is one of the most heavily fished lakes in the state with an estimated 65,000 angling trips each year. (IDNR, 2000c) More than 13,000 residents of Sangamon County enjoy angling opportunities each year and add more than \$8 million to the local economy (IDNR, 2000a). The economic impact figure does not consider other recreational activities such as camping, pleasure boating, hunting or hiking in and around the water resources.

Of the 428 miles of streams in Sangamon County, 180 miles of them (comprised of 12 streams) are less than 20 feet in average width. At an average of 115 feet in width, the Sangamon River is the largest moving water source in the county. The majority of streams or stream banks in the county are in private ownership. (SSCRPC, 1997)

Total lakes & streams amount to approx. 9,444 acres of lakes & streams or about 1.7% of the county. (IDNR, 1996)

### **Lakes:**

Lake Springfield and the Sangamon River provide good opportunities for fishing, boating, and swimming, and the surrounding areas provide good opportunities for picnicking, hunting, camping, and hiking. Several hundred acres of Sangchris Lake are in the southeastern part of the county. This State-owned lake is suitable for fishing, boating, and other recreational activities. (USDA, 2004)

More than 70 species of fish inhabit the waters of Sangamon County. Prime opportunities for fishing are available on rivers, streams, lakes, and farm ponds.

### **Lake Sangchris**

Lake Sangchris, partially located in Sangamon County, is one of the most heavily fished lakes in the State. About 65,000 angling trips are made to this lake each year (IDNR, 2000c). Lake Sangchris has excellent populations of largemouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bluegill, and crappie. The lake also supports a striped bass fishery and currently holds the State record for that species (31 pounds 7 ounces).

### **Lake Springfield**

City Water, Light & Power owns and manages Lake Springfield and its surrounding 57 miles of shoreline and numerous public parks. The lake adjacent parks receive 600,000 visitors annually.

The 4200-acre reservoir is the largest municipally owned lake in Illinois. Lake Springfield's primary purpose is to serve as the source of drinking water for the city of Springfield and several nearby communities. In addition, it is a major central Illinois recreation center, as well as the source of condenser cooling water for the utility's lakeshore power plant complex. (CWLP, 2009c)

Lake Springfield provides a Sangamon County venue for fishing, boating, and swimming. Lake Springfield is the most heavily fished impoundment located entirely in the county. Approximately 25,000 fishing trips are made to that lake each year (Illinois Department of Conservation, 1991). Boats allowed on Lake Springfield include canoes, motorboats, pontoons, rowboats, and sailboats. Boats and craft of any kind with mast heights of more than 35 feet may be used, kept or stored only on the central basin and central basin marginal land. (CWLP, 2009a)

There are 15 sport fish in Lake Springfield, including strong populations of largemouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bluegill, walleye, and white bass. Fishing is allowed either from boats on the water or from any public portion of the shoreline. Swimming, bathing and wading are permitted only in designated areas. (CWLP, 2009b).

### **Other Sangamon County public lakes**

There are several other public lakes in the county, including an Illinois Department of Transportation lake and lakes in Williamsville, Loami, and Washington Park. More than 13,000 residents of Sangamon County enjoy angling opportunities each year and add more than \$8 million to the local economy (IDNR, 2000a).

Sangamon County also has hundreds of privately owned small lakes and ponds. (SSCRPC, 1997)

### **Waterways in Sangamon County:**

The county has about 428 miles, or 1,611 acres, of streams. Of the 250 miles of significant streams in Sangamon County, 180 miles of them (comprised of 12 streams) are less than 20 feet in average width. At an average of 115 feet in width, the Sangamon River is the largest moving water source in the county with more than 50 miles of river way in the county. The majority of streams or stream banks in the county are in private ownership. Education programs are needed to inform landowners of stream bank care to prevent erosion and encourage fish and wildlife as these greenways provide benefits to the entire county. (SSCRPC, 1997)

Major fishing areas are the Sangamon River, the South Fork of the Sangamon River, and Lick Creek and Sugar Creek directly west of Springfield. These areas support largemouth bass, white bass, crappie, sunfish species, walleye, drum carp, and catfish species (Illinois Department of Conservation, 1971).

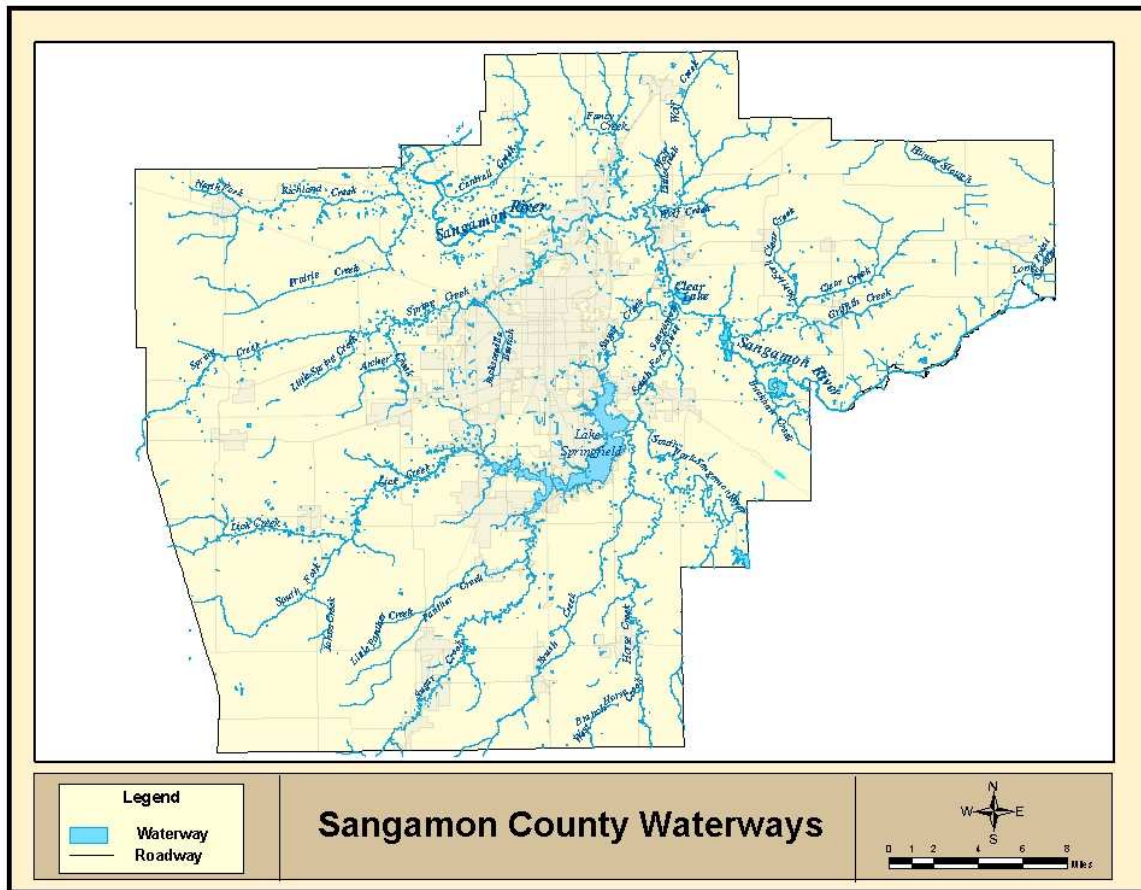
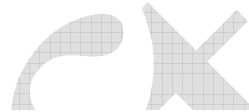


The South Fork from Horse Creek to the confluence of the Sangamon River is listed as one of three Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) sites in Sangamon County. It received this designation as it has with unusual concentrations of mussels and high quality streams.

**Streams of note in Sangamon County (SSCRFPC, 1997)**

**Brush Creek** – Originating at the Southern boundary of the county and flowing northeast to Horse Creek, its stream banks are bordered by cultivated cropland or in some cases by a thin band of trees. The proposed dam at Horse Creek for a second water supply would affect Brush Creek.

**Buckhart Creek** – Enters Sangamon County in the southeast and flows northwest into the Sangamon River. The watershed is in cropland and, in many places, is cultivated up to the stream bank. The stream bottom is mainly silt.



(high resolution map: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/Streams.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/Streams.pdf))

**Cantrall Creek** – Originates at the northern county boundary and flows south and west near Cantrall to the Sangamon River. The predominant bank vegetation is grasses, although trees and cultivated cropland border the stream in many places.

**Griffith Creek** – Originating near Mechanicsburg and flowing west into Clear Creek and the Sangamon River, its banks are bordered by a thin intermittent band of trees or cropland. The watershed is farmland.

**Horse Creek** – Originates in Montgomery County and flows northward into Sangamon County and the Sangamon River. The creek runs through Pawnee. A band of timber follows the stream, but the watershed is primarily farmland. Horse Creek is proposed to be dammed for a second water supply (Hunter Lake) for the City of Springfield.

**Lick Creek** – Originates in western Sangamon County and flows eastward south of Loami into Lake Springfield. A band of timber follows the stream, although the watershed is cropland.

**Prairie Creek** – Originates at the western boundary and flows northeast to the Sangamon River. This stream often overflows its banks. A thin band of trees or cropland borders the stream and its watershed is primarily cropland.

**Richland Creek** – Originates in the northwest and flows east through Pleasant Plains to Prairie Creek. This stream floods frequently. Its watershed is cropland, which often extends up to the bank.

**Sangamon River** – Originates in McLean County and enters Sangamon County southeast of Illiopolis. The river flows northwest passing through Riverton and north of Springfield to leave the county northeast of Salisbury. The riverbanks are lined with trees, but the watershed is mostly cropland. Extensive flooding occurs after periods of much rain.

**South Fork** – Starts in Christian County and enters Sangamon County in the southeast. It flows northward and empties into the Sangamon River. The stream banks are lined with timber. The watershed is mostly cropland and the river floods after heavy rains.

**Spring Creek** – Originates near the western county boundary and flows northeast to the Sangamon River. Its floodplains form a boundary to Springfield's city limits in some places. There is a thin band of trees along the banks and brush piles and logjams are numerous.

**Sugar Creek** – Enters Sangamon County in the south and flows northeast near Thayer and Auburn to the Sangamon River. This creek has been dammed to form Lake Springfield. A thin band of timber follows the banks.

**Wolf Creek** – enters Sangamon County in the north and flows south near Williamsville to the Sangamon River. There is a thin bank of trees along the banks with many brush piles and overhanging trees. The watershed is primarily cropland and agricultural pollution is present.

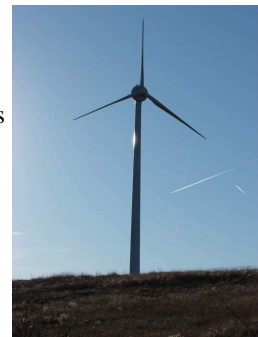
## **Groundwater**

**(Need groundwater info)**

## **Wind**

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Illinois wind maps, average wind speed classification for most of Illinois is class III, with some areas considered class IV. The scale ranges from one to seven, with seven being the highest speed. With recent turbine developments, classes three and up considered as potential wind energy locations. (U.S. Department of Energy, 2001)

The Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative, a local utility providing electric service in Sangamon, Morgan, Macoupin, Christian, and Montgomery counties, operates a wind turbine at Interstate 55 at Farmersville. The single "Gob Nob" turbine produces 900 Kilowatts. (RECC, 2009)



### **AWEMC Wind Farm Development**

American Wind Energy Management Corporation is in discussions with Sangamon County, as well as a number of Pleasant Plains residents, regarding a potential wind farm in the county. The 31-square-mile potential wind farm site in Sangamon County is bounded by Pleasant Plains on the north, Loami on the south, the Morgan County line on the west and Farmingdale on the east. The project is planned to provide over 400 megawatt-hours of power via 200 or so 450 foot turbines. If turbine site leases and county approval are secured, the project could begin construction by late 2010 or early 2011. (AWEMC, 2009)

A renewable power agreement in place for Illinois state government, currently results in the city of Springfield purchasing 120 megawatt hours of wind power — 60 for the city and 60 for state government buildings — from two Iowa-based wind farms. In addition, the Illinois Renewable Energy Standard requires utilities to purchase renewable energy at levels increasing over time. Numerous other policy incentives and requirements intend to stimulate renewable energy, including the possibility of future carbon tax or trade system. Wind resources are expected to be developed as an energy source in Sangamon County.

## **Natural Resources:**

### **Forested Land**

Sangamon County originally had 163,328 acres of forested land. Much of the forested areas were eliminated by early settlers for fuel, building materials and for agriculture purposes many years ago. Today only about 20% of the original forested acres by remain standing. The county is 8.8% forest, wetland and open water, with approximately 4.8% or 27,129 acres presently forested (IDNR, 1996). Of this total, only about 2000 acres is under management by a forester. (Iverson et Al 1989) Forested land provides windbreaks which protect livestock, building and from wind & snow. They provide food and cover for wildlife habitat. Forested land also provides for noise reductions as well as helping to prevent erosion. (USDA, 2004)

Though not rated as natural areas, the county includes two state-owned areas for recreation that also provide habitat: the 127-acre Sangamon River State Habitat Area (formerly known as the Sangamon County Conservation Area) and Lake Sangchris State Recreational Area. Both are primarily used for hunting. Lake Sangchris also features camping, boating, fishing, and hiking trails. The county manages the area formerly known as Driftwood Acres, a 55-acre wetland banking mitigation effort initiated to offset wetlands lost to road construction (SSCRPC, 1997).

### **Protected Forested Land**

Sangamon County has a number of protected areas of forested land. These include, Carpenter Park, Lick Creek Wildlife Preserve.

### **Harvested Timber**

Although Sangamon County does have some timber harvesting activity, data within the last decade is not available.

## **Prairie/Grasslands**

There are a number of prairie plantings in Sangamon County featuring a wide variety of native species. These include:

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary  
Carpenter Park  
Centennial Park  
CWLP Prairie Planting  
Gurdon's Park  
I-55 Prairie Plantings

Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary  
Old 36 RR Prairie  
Old 54 RR Prairie  
Stuart Park  
UIS Prairie

## **Wetlands**

GIS map in progress  
Public, private, program, protection

## **Floodplain and Drainage**

The county is in the Springfield Plain Region (Bergstrom et al., 1976/ Soil Survey) Shallow river valleys dissect the Springfield plain. The natural drainage is westward. The Sangamon River and its tributaries the South Fork of the Sangamon River and numerous smaller streams drain the county except for the northeast corner.

Approx 10% of the area in Sangamon County is in the 100 year flood plain as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A large portion of the flood prone area of the county is in the unincorporated parts of the county although several communities are also vulnerable to flooding. The majority of flooding in the county is riverine flooding related to over banking of the rivers & streams.

Left undisturbed, a flood plain provides a storage area for floodwaters helping to reduce the height and flow of flooding. Flood plains also provide habitat for a diverse array of plants and animals control erosion and recharge groundwater.

Sangamon County was the recipient of a Hazard Mitigation grant (funding provided by FEMA) for the purchase of a flood-prone area located at the confluence of Sugar Creek and the South Fork of the Sangamon River. The purpose of the grant program was to remove structures from the floodplain to prevent repeated flood damage and to preserve the land as open space forever. After the removal of approximately forty structures, associated utilities, and debris, the acreage will now be converted to wetlands/upland forest. Additional properties may be evaluated for participation in this grant program. This property is now the counties first park, the South Fork Preserve. (FEMA, 2009)

Sangamon County typically receives an average of 35.56 inches of rainfall each year. Of this, more than 21 inches or about 60% usually falls between March and September (SangCo, 2008a). The average snowfall is just over 21 inches (SangCo, 2008b).

The county has 12,838 acres of wetlands or 2.3% of the county (IDNR, 1996). **Can this be checked by SWCD office?**

## **Drainage districts - Levee System**

“Drainage districts are local bodies formed for the purpose of draining, ditching, and improving land for agricultural and sanitary purposes. They are authorized to build and maintain drains and levees, to sue all necessary private land within their corporate bodies for that purpose, and to tax land within their boundaries

as necessary” (Illinois State Archives, 2009). Two drainage districts exist in Sangamon County: Booth drainage district and Union drainage district – 1 Lanesville (ICIC, 2003).

The Lanesville portion of the Union drainage district oversees the Lanesville-Illiopolis Drainage Retention Area. Board Members make sure the area is well maintained, in good working order and provide oversight and management of the area. (SangCo, 2009)

(Integrate IDNR levee info here.)

### **Stormwater Resources**

Storm water management systems using retention and detention ponds should be viewed as a greenway resource. Subdivisions individually provide their own stormwater management and frequently, detention areas are placed in out-of-the-way, unusable portions of the subdivision. There is currently no regional plan for stormwater management and drainage areas are not connected. (SSCRPC, 1997)

Clustering and combining stormwater areas along with existing floodplain, streams, or wetlands can result in a connected greenway system between subdivisions. A regional stormwater plan is needed along with a stormwater management ordinance. The ordinance should set standards for not only peak flow, but for infiltration rates, pollution and sediment control and vegetation. (SSCRPC, 1997)

In addition to flood and sediment control, stormwater control greenways include additional benefits such as additional open space, scenic residential or commercial settings, natural areas for wildlife and screening/privacy from other uses. (SSCRPC, 1997)

### **Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites**

The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) provides a set of information about high quality natural areas, habitats of endangered species, and other significant natural features. Information from the INAI is used to guide and support land acquisition and protection programs by all levels of government as well as by private landowners and conservation organizations. Sangamon County has three INAI sites:

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Site Categories</u>	<u>Description</u>
Carpenter Park	I, III	Old growth upland/floodplain forest
Sangamon River: Richland Creek	VI	Mussel bed
South Fork Sangamon River:	III, VI	Mussel bed

INAI Category Descriptions:

Cat. I = High quality natural community and natural community restorations

Cat. III = State dedicated Nature Preserves, Land and Water Reserves, & Natural Heritage Landmarks

Cat. VI = Unusual concentrations of flora or fauna and high quality streams

### **Conservation and Preservation Areas**

#### **Adams Wildlife Sanctuary**

Owned by the Illinois Audubon Society the 40-acre sanctuary is located on Clear Lake Avenue, on the east side of Springfield, a few blocks west of the intersection of I-55 and I-72. The woods, walking trails, and a small prairie restoration are maintained as an outdoor classroom, as well as for the public. Trails are open daily, and there are several special public events throughout the year.

Stewardship is needed to make the woods sustainable as a long-term teaching resource by stabilizing the tree community and the control of some non-native plant species. The Friends of Sangamon Valley is currently leading the effort to manage the woods.



Adams Wildlife Sanctuary is one of several statewide nature areas preserved by the Illinois Audubon Society. Located just minutes from downtown Springfield, the Sanctuary provides an opportunity for urban children to experience hands-on activities and learn about the interdependence of plants, animals, and themselves. Woods and prairie habitats are found in this 40-acre Sanctuary. (ISAS, 2008)

### Brush Creek

The Brush Creek area is approximately 200 acres of forest and is mostly owned by the City of Springfield. It includes the only occurrences of Post Oak in the county (FOSV, 2004). This also is in the construction area of the proposed Hunter Lake. Some of this area would be impacted with construction.

### Carpenter Park

One of three Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites in Sangamon County (IDNR/INAI database), Carpenter Park is a 322-acre tract with high quality upland and floodplain forest communities, intermittent streams, small seeps, and sandstone bedrock outcrops. These features represent over half of the remaining forest that originally occurred along the major streams of the Springfield Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Carpenter Park has a well-documented history, which begins with the local Indians who wintered on the bluffs above a river they called Sain quee-mon (Sangamon). Two early settlers, William and Margaret Higgins, built a cabin near the present day preserve and were possibly the first white people to view the area. William Carpenter arrived in 1820 and opened a small farm, established a ferry, and erected a flour and saw mill on the Sangamon River. Carpenter's daughter Sarah inherited the property and eventually sold it to the Springfield Park District in 1922. (IDNR, 2009a)



Carpenter/Riverside Parks (Chris Young/the State Journal Register)

In spite of heavy use, the preserve still maintains a high quality wet-mesic floodplain forest, dominated by old growth sycamore, silver maple, cottonwood, and box elder trees. The dry-mesic upland forest community is dominated by black and white oaks and scattered with scattered black cherry and hickory. The steep slopes and ravines support red and white oak. The canopy trees are over four hundred years old, but past disturbances have eliminated the younger age classes (LaGesse, V, et al., 2001). This large tract along the river is important habitat for many wildlife species such as deer, raccoon, white-footed mouse, and short-tailed shrew. At least 82 species of birds nest here, including the pileated woodpecker, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, Kentucky warbler, parula warbler, yellow-throated warbler and prothonotary warbler. (IDNR, 2009a)

Gurgen Park's 400 acres is adjacent to Carpenter Park and serves as a buffer for the preserve and has additional floodplain forest and several tree and prairie plantings.

### Carver Yocum Homestead Park

Approximately 9-acres on east side of Camp Butler, north of Old Rt. 36. Carver Yocum Homestead Park was acquired by the county through a buyout from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and has a history of flooding. In 2007, a conservation easement was established for the park with the Friends of Sangamon Valley group. The property includes Silver maple floodplain forest, wet prairie (restoration in process) and wet mesic prairie (restoration in process) and is home to large persimmon trees. Friends of Sangamon Valley have plans to establish an interpretive trail on the site. (FOSV, 2008a)

### **CWLP Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Wildlife Sanctuary is 12.89 acres. It is located on Woodland Trail in Chatham, IL. The Wildlife Sanctuary has playground equipment, horseshoe pits, and a softball diamond. There is one pavilion and four uncovered picnic areas, as well as a dock for access from the lake. (CWLP, 2009)

### **Glenwood Woods**

Located north of Glenwood Middle School off Chatham Rd, this 75-acre tract is owned by CWLP. Friends of Sangamon Valley have submitted a management plan for review to CWLP. The site is mostly upland oak hickory forest; with small portions of hardwood floodplain forest and dry upland slopes dominated by chinquapin and bur oak. Vern LaGessee of Friends of Sangamon Valley says, "This is one of the best public-owned uplands outside Carpenter Park, it shows few exotics and we think this will be a great opportunity to develop a learning curriculum to work with Glenwood Middle School as an outdoor lab." (FOSV, 2008b)

### **Irwin's Park**

"Auburn Township's Irwin's Park is a historic conservation/recreation area. Panther Creek flows from west to east through the entire Park. Irwin's Park consists of approximately 28 acres of picturesque timber and approximately 35 acres of tillable land. The only remains of a dance pavilion in the timber are 20 pillars that supported it. A 2-acre yard with historic residence known as the "Rock House" and brick outhouse situated on it are near the remains of the foundation of a 2-story mansion built in 1865 by Capt. James Irwin and his wife, the former Rachel Harlan, daughter of Silas Harlan. Paul Irwin, Dallas, Texas, great-grandson of Silas Harlan, gifted this entire property known as "Irwin's Park" to the Auburn Township in December 1991. The Board of Trustees of Auburn Township deeded said property to the Irwin's Park Association, Incorporated, in April 2008." (Irwin Park Association, 2009)

### **Lake Sangchris State Fish and Wildlife Area**

In 1969, ComEd deeded 1,414 acres of land around the lake to the state, along with easement rights for boating and fishing. In August of 1997, the Department of Natural Resources purchased 1,180 acres along the west shoreline of Lake Sangchris from ComEd, bringing the park to a total of 3,024 acres, most of which is in Christian County. Today, ongoing developments and improvements have transformed the Sangchris Lake State Park into a popular outdoor retreat. The recreation area is a popular location for picnicking, camping, fishing, hunting, and boating. (IDNR, 2009b)

### **Lick Creek Wildlife Preserve**

Lick Creek Wildlife Preserve is 340 acres. It is located at the western-most end of Lake Springfield and comprises beautiful wooded hills and marshy lowlands. There are hiking trails throughout the Preserve, which is home to a variety of native flora and fauna. The area was set aside as a wildlife preserve in 1991. (CWLP, 2009)

### **Lincoln Memorial Gardens**

In 1936, Springfield native Harriet Knudson envisioned a unique living memorial to Abraham Lincoln, a garden composed only of plants native to Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, the three states in which Lincoln lived. She convinced the city of Springfield to donate land along the shore of the newly created Lake Springfield, and Mrs. Knudson, a member of the Springfield Civic Garden Club, coordinated a project in which the Garden Clubs of Illinois agreed to sponsor the project. To design the unusual living tribute, Mrs. Knudson was able to secure the services of Jens Jensen, one of the nation's foremost landscape architects.

Today's Lincoln Memorial Garden includes more than 100 acres of land that incorporate the original 63 acres, the Walnut Grove, small tracts to the east and south of the original property, and a 29 acre site known as the Ostermeier Prairie Center. This former farm includes a century-old restored farmhouse, barn



and a pond. It was acquired by the Foundation in 1995. The pasture and cropland have been restored to native prairie typical of central Illinois during pre-settlement days. (LMGNC, 2009)

### **Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary**

Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary is 120 acres located 12 miles southwest of Springfield near Loami. Established in 1992 by the estate of Frank and Gladys Nipper, it includes over 150 different species of flowers and plants (Robert, 2007). One hundred acres of the Sanctuary is prairie, twenty is floodplain forest along with eight acres is wetlands (Per conversation with LaGessee, V., 2009).

### **Riverside Park**

Riverside Park has 470 acres and is located on the far north side of Springfield, west of Business Route 55 (Peoria Road). The park is bordered by the Sangamon River and Carpenter Park to its north and the railroad to the west. Mixed commercial, industrial and residential uses surround the park on the south and east sides. Riverside Park is naturally divided into an upper and lower section. (SPD, 2009c)

The upper section provides both a nature/equestrian adventure and open green space for activities. Visitors have access to nearly 100 campsites and a number of nature trails. The park does flood during the spring of each year periodically due to the rise of water from the Sangamon River. The park closes for safety reasons during flood season. (SPD, 2009a)

The lower section of Riverside Park contains approximately 200 acres and is designated primarily as an unleashed dog run area. This area includes a small pond and just less than one mile of riverfront land for you and your dog to enjoy. Lower Riverside also contains a BMX Club and eight baseball fields are located in the flood plain near the river. Bank fishing and hiking are available along the mile-long road adjacent to the river. (SPD, 2009b)

### **Sangamon County State Fish and Wildlife Area**

A satellite of Jim Edgar-Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area, the Sangamon River State Fish & Wildlife Area is 179 acres of river frontage near Athens, Illinois. The area is open to hunting (special permit required), bank fishing, hiking, bird watching, and other such uses.

### **South Fork Nature Preserve**

Approximately 3.8 acres along Bakutis Rd. near Rochester. This property was purchased from The Federal Emergency Management Agency for the county for use as open space. Friends of Sangamon Valley manage the site through a 2006 conservation easement. The area is hardwood floodplain forest with large hardwood trees, a historic bridge abutment, and is home to the state endangered Kirtlands water snake, the pileated woodpecker and oriole. (FOSV. 2004)

## **Parks with natural areas**

### **Washington Park**

An upland Oak forest located at 1400 Williams Boulevard, Washington Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features walking trails, a botanical garden, large duck pond, rose garden, and carillon. (SPD, 2009)

### **Stuart Park**

Located in Northwest Springfield, Stuart Park is 37 acres and includes a small pond, prairie planting as well as two fenced in dog runs.

## Threatened & Endangered Species



Sangamon County has eight species listed as Threatened and three species listed as endangered. Land conservation is a key component of restoring the populations of these plants and animals (IDNR, 2008). The Bald Eagle picture was taken recently in Sangamon County.

(Chris Young/the State Journal Register)

Scientific Name	Common Name	State Status
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	LE
<i>Clonophis kirtlandi</i>	Kirtlands Snake	LT
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrin Falcon	LT
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	LT
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	LT
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	LT
<i>Melanthium virginicum</i>	Bunch Flower	LT
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black Crowned Night Herron	LE
<i>Plantago cordata</i>	Heart-Leaved Plantain	LE
<i>Spermophilus franklinii</i>	Franklin's Ground Squirrel	LT
<i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i>	Lined Snake	LT

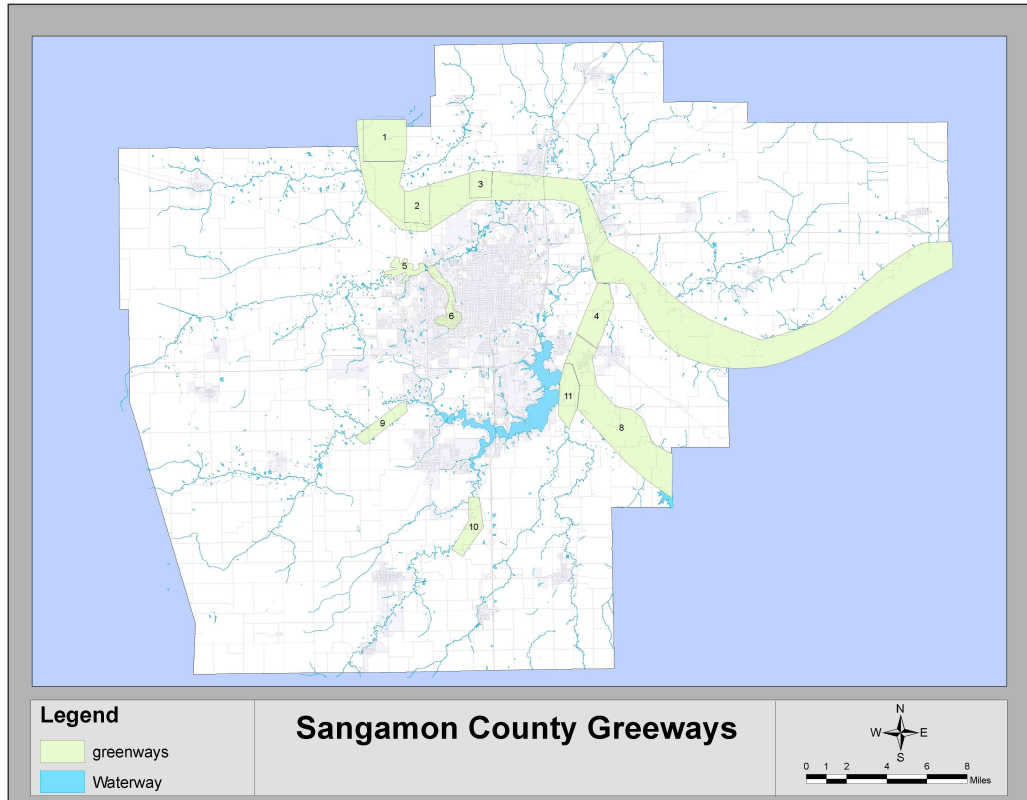
LE – Listed as Endangered  
LT- Listed as Threatened  
(IDNR, 2008)



Franklin's Squirrel (IDNR)

## Open Space:

### Greenways, Blueways and Open Space



(high resolution map:

[http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/SangamonCountyGreenways.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/SangamonCountyGreenways.pdf))

The SSCRPC recommended 11 areas as greenways in the 1997 Greenways and Trails Plan for Springfield and Sangamon County. Friends of the Sangamon Valley's work, creating the "Inventory of Sangamon County Natural Areas" 2004 report and Sangamon County Greenspaces planning commission report are the sources for much of the following area descriptions.

**These six were recommended for acquisition due to their value for natural resource protection or recreation.**

#### **Area 1 – Expansion of the Sangamon County conservation area along the Sangamon River.**

The Friends of Sangamon Valley recommend evaluating tracts in the north, west, and south for expansion. There are high quality dry mesic uplands to the north extending into Menard County. The North and West expansion is approximately 90 acres.

The Southern portion of the expansion is comprised of a diverse understory and quality floodplain hardwood forest. It is approximately 105 acres. (FOSV, 2004)

**Area 2 – Forested and floodplain area along the Sangamon River adjacent to the CNW-North proposed trail corridor.**

As per the Friends of Sangamon Valley, this 355-acre greenway is, “...not a diverse natural community; Silver Maple dominates the entire floodplain. There are 10 owners included. This area may be more easily protected through conservation easement or private landowner stewardship.” (FOSV, 2004)

**Area 3 – Expansion of the Carpenter/Riverside Park area west along both sides of the Sangamon River to Walnut Street.**

At just over 1,200 acres, these tracts include the most diverse natural communities in Sangamon County. Friends of Sangamon Valley have recommended they should be a high priority for protection. (FOSV, 2004)

**Area 4 – Expansion of the Sangamon County owned floodplain at the confluence of the Sangamon River, South Fork, and Sugar Creek.**

Approximately 435 acres owned primarily by private landowners as well as around 60 acres owned by Sangamon County. (FOSV, 2004)

**Area 5 – Floodplain/forest along Spring Creek South of Jefferson Street.**

Approximately 480 acres, two-thirds of which is restorable agricultural fields. (FOSV, 2004)

**Area 6 – Jacksonville Branch through Springfield**

Approximately 105 acres in Springfield, which connects to Washington Park, half of which is owned by the Springfield Park District. (FOSV, 2004)

**Five more greenways have been recommended for conservations easements:**

**Area 7 – Remainder of the Sangamon River Greenway including its floodplain and associated forested areas.**

At over 2,100 acres, the tracts comprising the remaining Sangamon River Greenway comprise one of the largest enduring natural areas in Sangamon County. A number of private landowners are represented in the various tracts in this green space, as well as the 152-acre Sangamon Landfill. (FOSV, 2004) The Sangamon Landfill is currently active.

**Area 8 - South Fork Greenway – Village of Rochester**

This greenway spans approximately 700 acres and includes a variety of private landowners. It also includes the South Fork Nature Reserve, which is approximately 3.8 acres along Bakutis Rd. near Rochester. This property was purchased from The Federal Emergency Management Agency for the county for use as open space. Friends of Sangamon Valley manage the site through a 2006 conservation easement. The area is hardwood floodplain forest with large hardwood trees, a historic bridge abutment, and is home to the state endangered Kirtlands water snake, the pileated woodpecker and oriole. (FOSV, 2004)

**Area 9 - Lick Creek**

Lick Creek Wildlife Preserve is 340 acres. It is located at the western-most end of Lake Springfield and comprises beautiful wooded hills and marshy lowlands. There are hiking trails through the Preserve, which is home to a variety of native flora and fauna. The area was set aside as a wildlife preserve in 1991. (CWLP, 2009c)



Notes on the William Parr tract in the Lick Creek greenway from the Friends of Sangamon Valley: “This tract is the only example of old growth Chinquapin Oak and Sugar Maple forest in the county. It is unusual to see Chinquapin Oak and Sugar Maple growing in association with each other. Some natural community researchers have suggested that these two species, when occurring together in a grove-like setting, may have been planted by American Indians or early settlers.” (FOSV, 2004)

Camp Widjiwagan Girl Scout campground has some of the oldest Chinquapin Oaks in the county, with some aged over 300 years old (FOSV, 2004).

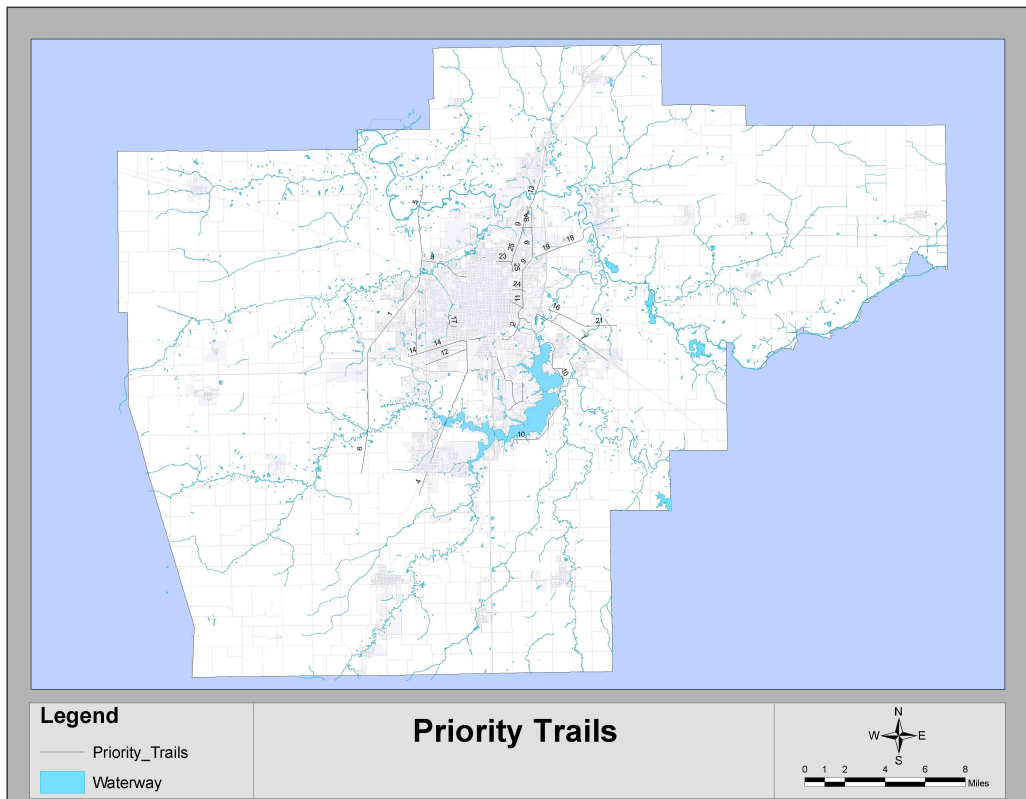
#### **Area 10 - Sugar Creek**

Greenwood Woods is approximately 150 acres near Lake Springfield mostly owned by CWLP, this area includes the best example of old growth White Oaks on the Lake. (FOSV, 2004)

#### **Area 11 - Horse Creek Greenway (proposed Hunter Lake area)**

192-acre continuous undeveloped forested tract identified as possible green space. Approximately 168 acres owned by the City of Springfield and approximately 15 acres owned by CWLP (FOSV, 2004). Some of this area would be lost with the construction of Hunter Lake.

### **Trail Corridors**



(high resolution map: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/PriorityTrails.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/PriorityTrails.pdf))

The SSRPC reviewed and ranked area trail corridor projects in the SSRPC 1997 *Sangamon County Greenspaces* greenways and trail plan. The following corridor information is from that plan.

### High priority Corridors

#### **CNW – Urban (Corridor 1)**

This trail segment is part of the former Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, which traverses Sangamon County. Abandonment of the corridor because of the Union Pacific/Southern Pacific merger has been approved. The corridor is located on Springfield's growing west side and would be accessible from many residential areas. It receives the highest rating due to its long, continuous length, access from several parks, and usable bridges over major roadways.

#### **IT – Ash Street to Bunn Park (Corridor 2)**

This short trail segment links several parks and schools in southeast Springfield. It is viewed as a vital trail segment because of its potential for an on-street link to the Lost Bridge Trail and its connection to sidewalks and bike lanes on 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Stanford Avenue, which in turn provide connections to UIS/LLCC, Parkway Pointe/Westchester trail, and the Springfield to Chatham trail.

#### **Route 29 – South from Rochester (Corridor 3)**

Railroad right-of-way along Route 29 southeast from Rochester has been acquired by the state of Illinois. It is felt that both road improvements and a multi-use trail can be accommodated. The corridor extends through Sangamon County connecting to Taylorville and Pana in Christian County, creating a corridor of regional or statewide significance. This corridor would connect to the Lost Bridge Trail and into Springfield.

#### **CILCO /CWLP Right-of-Way – Chatham South (Corridor 4)**

Most of this corridor is owned by CWLP and CILCO from Chatham south. It connects to the historically significant Irwin Park. The corridor would be difficult to acquire south of 12.5S Road, so a road connection on 12.5S Road west to the CNW corridor (Corridor 6) is recommended.

#### **CNW – North (Corridor 5)**

This corridor, which is an extension from the north end of Corridor 1, is one of the most scenic in Sangamon County. There is an existing historic bridge over the Sangamon River. In addition to the river, there is floodplain and forested areas making a high quality natural habitat area. This corridor is also the only one in the county going north into Menard County toward Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site.

### Medium Priority Corridors

#### **CNW-South (Corridor 6)**

This rural segment at the south end of Corridor 1 is important because of the continuous length of trail that would be provided crossing the country from north to south. An on-road connection at 12.5S Road to Chatham / South corridor (Corridor 4) provides a loop.

#### **Lost Bridge Spur (Corridor 7)**

This spur is currently owned by the state and could easily be opened as a hiking path off the Lost Bridge Trail. This scenic, tree-lined corridor would add a variety to the existing trail and could provide access to the Sugar Creek greenway.

#### **Douglas to Stuart Parks (Corridor 8)**

This corridor links Douglas Park with Stuart Park and the CNW urban corridor (Corridor 1). Jane Addams School and Site Q park are also located along the trail. Private ownership of a portion of this corridor is the reason this receives a medium priority. It would provide a trail opportunity in northwest Springfield.

#### **Clear Lake Avenue to Sangamon River (Corridor 9)**

This long length of urban corridor could connect the north and east side of Springfield into a trail system. Some private ownership exists. An on-street connection along Mayden Street provides the best connection



north to the Sangamon River as part of the railroad corridor north of Mayden (Corridor 9a) is in private ownership.

#### **Lake Springfield Trail (Corridor 10)**

A Lake Springfield trail is one of the trail facilities most often mentioned as desired by citizens during the planning process. The trail would link many parks and natural areas. The project is ranked as medium rather than high priority only because CWLP owns the land and there is no imminence of loss factor to be considered. Gradual construction of this trail at any time would be appropriate. All road improvements in the area should accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

#### **Ash Street to Clear Lake Avenue (Corridor 11)**

This segment would connect the Washington Middle School/Jaycee Park area with the proposed trail system. It would also provide access from the trail via sidewalk to a major retail area. Unfortunately, part of the corridor is in private ownership. Several at-grade street crossings exist.

#### **Westchester / Lincolnshire (Corridor 12)**

This corridor parallels the proposed trail from Parkway Pointe east. Even though the general area is served by a trail, this corridor would provide closer access to some neighborhoods and another link to the Springfield/Chatham trail.

#### **Sangamon River to Williamsville (Corridor 13)**

A CILCO easement runs from the Sangamon River north to the county line. The Sangamon River area is quite scenic. This corridor passes through Sherman and Williamsville and connects into the Village of Williamsville's proposed trail system. The corridor is rated as a medium priority because of its rural population use base and no imminence of loss. Negotiations are currently underway to acquire long term lease from Cilco for use of this property for recreational uses.

#### **Parkway Pointe West (Corridor 14)**

This segment of abandoned railroad would connect the proposed trail west through the retail and industrial areas of Parkway Pointe and Southwest Plaza to Cockrell Lane. It duplicates the access to Koke Mill Road provided by sidewalks in South West Plaza.

#### **Riverton –East to County line (Corridor 15)**

This 16 mile abandoned corridor would link Riverton, Dawson, Buffalo, and Illiopolis. It has a high tourism potential because of the possibility of extension into Macon County to Decatur. Acquisition of the corridor would be difficult because approximately half of it is in private ownership.

#### **Low Priority Corridors**

##### **Sugar Creek Spur (Corridor 16)**

Although totally in private ownership, the segment is in the floodplain and does not have many potential uses. It would provide a variety to the Lost Bridge Trail and could be maintained only as a hiking trail without a paved surface. Acquisition of the Lost Bridge Spur (Corridor 7) first is necessary for access to this segment.

##### **Leland Grove Trail (Corridor 17)**

This corridor would provide a link to Washington Park from a residential area.

##### **Springfield to Riverton (Corridor 18)**

This mainly rural corridor is very scenic, but depends on the acquisition of other trail segments (Corridors 9 and 19) before it would be useful and accessible. An on-road connection would be necessary to cross the Sangamon River to Riverton.



**Northeast Springfield (Corridor 19)**

This segment is the urban segment needed before the preceding Springfield to Riverton corridor (Corridor 18) could be developed. About half of this segment is in private ownership. The development of Corridor 9 is needed before this trail would be useful.

**South Grand Avenue to Cook Street (Corridor 20)**

This spur to the proposed north/south corridor (Corridor 11) would provide additional access to the trail system and to Withrow School. Its usefulness depends on the completion of the north/south corridor. Some of the corridor is in private ownership.

**Buckhart (Corridor 21)**

This corridor goes through several natural areas leading southeast to the county line. Even with its connection to the Lost Bridge Trail via Corridor 7, this corridor remains a low priority because the entire corridor is in private ownership.

**Auburn (Corridor 22)**

Although it would be desirable to complete a trail from Chatham to Auburn, part of the Auburn section is in private ownership and is being used commercially.

**Lanphier Area (Corridor 23)**

This segment north of Lanphier High School is abandoned and was considered in the trail system. It is not recommended at this time because it would have an at-grade crossing with an active rail line.

**Bergen Park (Corridor 24)**

This is another segment that would provide increased neighborhood access to and from a proposed trail. The spur remains a low priority until the north/south trail would be completed (Corridors 9 and 11).

**North Central to Indian Hills (Corridor 25)**

A trail through this densely populated urban area would be desirable. However, the majority of the corridor is in private ownership and a small portion has been lost to other uses.

**Lincoln Site Trail (Corridor 26)**

This proposal cannot be rated using the same system as the other trail corridors. City street right-of-way would be used and different funding sources. It would serve more of a tourism/economic development function by connecting historic sites than other proposed corridors do. This trail is not present on the following map.

**Trailways**

In the mid-90's, the Department of Transportation's Enhancement Program approved funds for the areas first trails. Since then, Sangamon County has made significant progress concerning trails, including:

- "Sangamon County Greenspaces", a Greenways & Trails Plan for Springfield and Sangamon County, was completed in 1997, though never adopted.
- The Village of Rochester manages a portion of the Lost Bridge trail, and has connected it to their community park trail loop.
- Springfield currently has 15.6 miles of trails throughout the city.
- Future plans for trail expansion and new trails, such as the 38-miles Sangamon Valley Trail

Existing Trails			
Trail Name	Jurisdiction	Miles	Date Opened
UIS/LLCC	UIS/LLCC	0.65	
Lost Bridge Trail	City of Springfield and Village of Rochester	4.9	May 1997 / Sept. 2005
Wabash Trail	City of Springfield	2.2	July 1999
Interurban Trail (Wabash Avenue to Woodside Road)	Springfield Park District	3	July 1999
Interurban Trail (Woodside Road to Village of Chatham)	Springfield Park District/Chatham	4.1	June 2003
Lost Bridge Extension to Community Drive	Village of Rochester	0.75	August 2004

(SSCRPC 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan)

## Future Trail Plans

### Sangamon Valley Trail

In 2001, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), through the Open Land Trust Program, purchased an abandoned Union-Pacific railroad corridor. This 38-mile greenway travels through Sangamon County and into Menard County on the north and Macoupin County on the south. IDNR has developed a concept plan that presents a vision for developing this corridor as a recreational trail. IDNR proposes that the trail be developed through a cooperative partnership among the counties and communities along the trail. (SSCRPC 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan)

It is most likely that the 38-mile Sangamon Valley Trail will be developed in stages. IDNR's concept plan estimates the total cost to be \$15 million, which includes all engineering, construction, and access improvements. The plan divides the corridor into seven segments and places priority on three of the segments. These three segments have the most impact on previously mentioned MPA. Moreover, the MPA offers the most potential users of the trail. The three priority segments are: 1) Central Point Road to Stuart Park; 2) Stuart Park to Iles Avenue; and 3) Iles Avenue to Centennial Park. These segments total 9.4 miles and are estimated to cost \$3,960,200 (approximately 25% of the total trail). (SSCRPC 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan)

Funds for development include DNR's Bike Path grant program, which provides 50% of projects costs. Re-authorization of the federal transportation enhancement program is anticipated, which would be another source. Commitment of local sponsors and matches will be needed for the Sangamon Valley Trail to become a reality. (SSCRPC 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan)

Sangamon Valley Trail			
Cost Estimate of 3 Priority Segments			
Trail Corridor		Additional Trail Connections	Total
Preliminary Engineering	\$997,850	\$28,875	\$1,026,725
Construction	\$2,851,000	\$82,500	\$2,933,500
Total	\$3,848,850	\$111,375	\$3,960,225

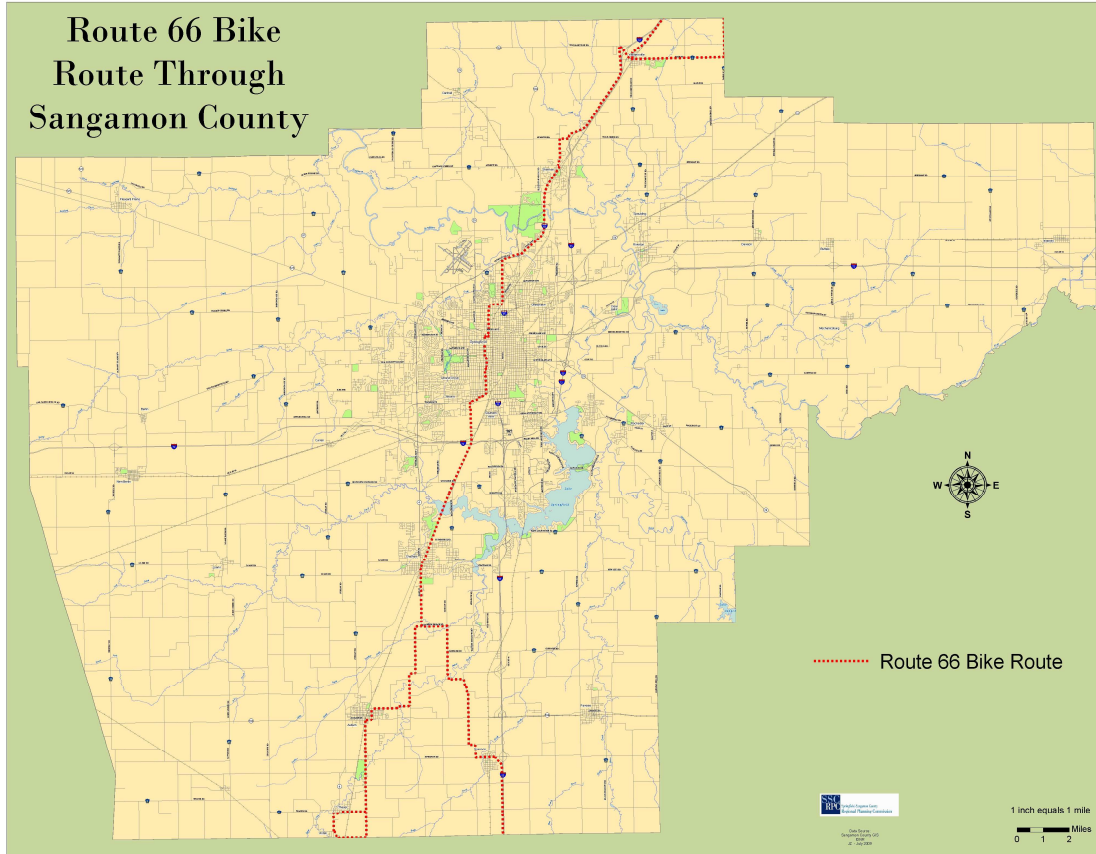
source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

### The Interurban Trail

The Interurban trail connecting Springfield to Chatham is proposed to continue in the future south to Auburn.

### Route 66 Bike Route

The Route 66 Trail is a mostly on-road route for bicyclists and others, from Chicago to St. Louis. It is intended to promote touring by bicyclists and others through Illinois' historic Route 66 corridor and passed directly through Sangamon County.



high resolution map: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/Route\\_66\\_Bike\\_route.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/Route_66_Bike_route.pdf)

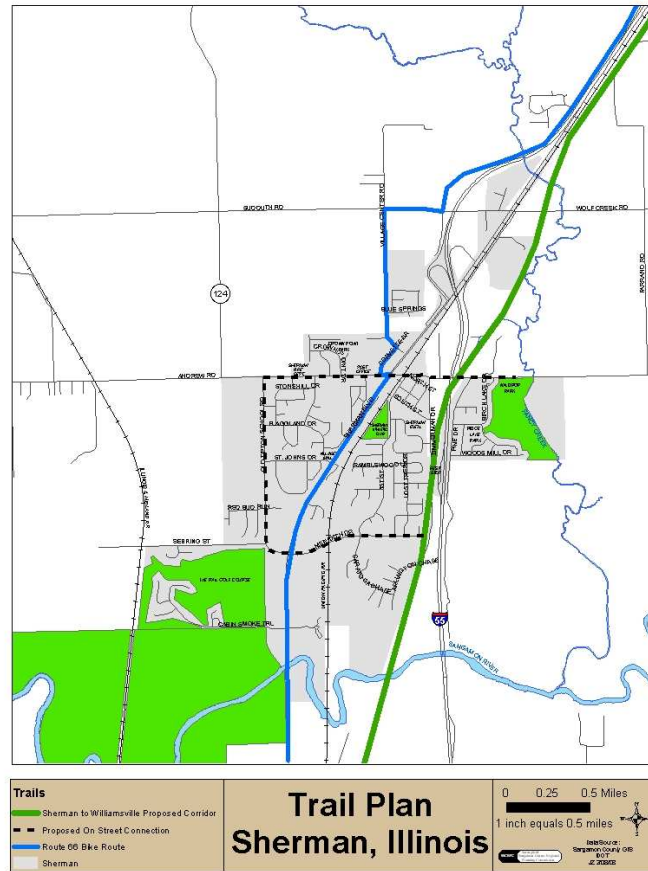
### Sherman to Williamsville multi-use trail

This trail project is in progress and will eventually provide biking, hiking, and walking access between Sherman and Williamsville along CILCO property. The two communities have secured a contract for use of the property as a trail. The project would take several years and an estimated \$1 million. The trail will be approximately 2.4 miles in length. (SSCRPC 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan)

### Blueways

A Blueway is a navigable waterway, including its tributaries, lying adjacent to conservation areas, federal, state and local parks, open space, environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands and uplands are used by humans and wildlife alike.

*Listing of area blueways and statement supporting the development and maintenance of blueways?*

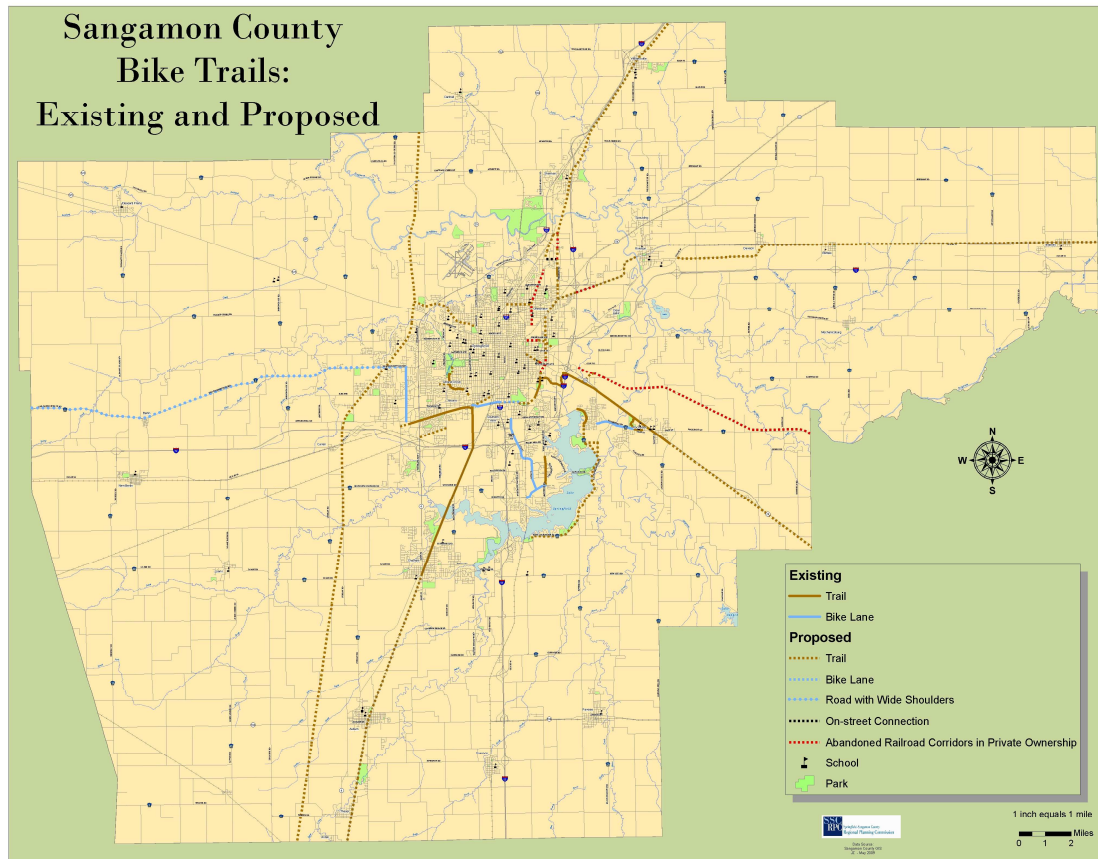


(high resolution map: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/ShermanTrails.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/ShermanTrails.pdf))

The proposed trail is part of Corridor 13 on the master plan of trails for Sangamon County's Greenways Program. This trail would present opportunities to connect to Logan County as well.

### Lost Bridge Trail

The Springfield Park District envisions future phases of the trail could extend Lost Bridge Trail southeast to the communities of Taylorville and Pana (Springfield Park District).



(high resolution map: [http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures\\_Docs/Comp\\_Plan/County\\_Trail\\_Map.pdf](http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/PDFs/Brochures_Docs/Comp_Plan/County_Trail_Map.pdf))

## Rail Corridor Development

### Initial statement and strategy regarding rail expansion

#### Rail Expansion Goal Statement:

This group recommends all transportation corridors need to be reviewed for environmental impact.

#### Rail Expansion Strategy:

All transportation corridor plans and development should include full environmental studies of all natural resources and transportation accessibility to promote compact, contiguous development utilizing context sensitive solutions and processes.

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